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Industrial Development Board

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HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENT BETWEEN UNIDO AND THE REPUBLIC OF AUSTRIA AND SPACE REQUIREMENTS OF THE VIENNA-BASED ORGANIZATIONS

Present and projected space requirements of the Vienna-based organizations

Report by the Director-General

1. At its sixth session, in its decision IDB.6/Dec.17, the Industrial Development Board took note of the report by the Director-General on present and projected space requirements of the Vienna-based organizations and on recent developments for possible solutions (IDB.6/14 and Corr.1). The Board also endorsed the common position of the Vienna-based organizations and requested the Director-General to continue his consultations with the host Government, the International Atomic Energy Agency and the United Nations Office at Vienna, and to present to the Board at its eighth session recommendations on the financial and budgetary implications of providing adequate Headquarters premises until the year 2000.

2. The Government of Austria has informed the UNIDO Secretariat that it has decided to offer to the international organizations in Vienna, for their present as well as for their future space requirements, additional office facilities free of charge and that for this purpose an extension of the Vienna International Centre is foreseen. In order to facilitate the planning of the new office buildings, the host Government has requested the international organizations concerned to specify their space requirements in a detailed manner.

3. A review of the present and projected space requirements of the Vienna-based organizations has reconfirmed the information orginally provided to the Government of Austria at the sixth session of the Board that the immediate needs of UNIDO would be 5,265 square metres, or five floors, of net office space. This amount of space would need to be supported with a corresponding amount of space for meeting rooms, machine rooms, storage rooms, corridors and other facilities, as well as some twelve to fifteen thousand square metres for common services and ancillary facilities. It can be further projected that by the year 2010 UNIDO would require an additional 7,000 square metres of net office space with concomitant space requirements for secondary areas and common service facilities in support thereof.

4. It would be premature to estimate the cost of operating, maintaining and repairing any supplementary space in view of the fact that the host Government has indicated that any additional office buildings to be constructed may not take the same form as the existing structures.

ACTION REQUIRED OF THE BOARD

5. The Board may wish to take note of the present report.

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JOINT INSPECTION UNIT

Activities of the Joint Inspection Unit in 1990 and early 1991 of relevance to UNIDO

Note by the Secretariat

Summary

Describes briefly the activities of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) during 1990 and early 1991, and deals with matters of relevance to UNIDO such as technical cooperation and the use of national professional project personnel (NPPP) and the assessment of the environmental focus of projects financed by UNDP and other United Nations agencies.

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Introduction

1. In accordance with Industrial Development Board decision IDB.1/Dec.22, the Director-General notified the Secretary-General of the United Nations of the acceptance by UNIDO of the statute of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU), effective 1 January 1986. Under the terms of the statute, 1/ the Unit is a subsidiary organ of the legislative bodies of the organizations that accept its statute. Reports of the Unit shall be submitted with the comments of the executive heads of the organizations concerned to the competent organs of those organizations; the executive heads of the organizations shall also ensure that recommendations of the Unit approved by their respective competent organs are implemented as expeditiously as possible. At its forty-fifth session, the General Assembly considered the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on its activities during the period 1 July 1989 to 30 June 1990. 2/ The work programmes of JIU are drawn up in accordance with article 9 of its statute and take into account requests and suggestions made by the participating organizations. The document containing the work programme for 1991 and the nucleus of the work programme for 1992-1993 3/ has been circulated to Member States and participating organizations by the Secretary-General. It will also be made available to the Board at its eighth session, as well as the relevant reports completed by the Unit in 1990 and early 1991.

I. JOINT INSPECTION UNIT REPORTS COMPLETED

2. Since the issuance of the most recent note to the Board on the subject (IDB.7/24), the following reports of the Unit have been prepared and circulated for consideration and/or action:

(a) Distribution and dissemination of documents and publications of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), particularly in the developing countries (JIU/REP/90/1);

(b) The coordination of activities related to early warning of possible refugee flows (JIU/REP/90/2);

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(c) Extrabudgetary resources of the United Nations: Towards transparency of presentation, management and reporting (JIU/REP/90/3);

(d) African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP) (JIU/REP/90/4);

(e) Technical cooperation and the use of national professional project personnel (NPPP) (JIU/REP/91/1);

(f) Assessment of the environmental focus of projects financed by UNDP and other United Nations agencies (JIU/REP/91/2).

3. Of the above, the latter two reports (JIU/REP/91/1 and JIU/REP/91/2) are of direct interest and relevance to UNIDO.

II. REPORTS SUBMITTED BY THE JOINT INSPECTION UNIT OF DIRECT INTEREST TO UNIDO

A. Technical cooperation and the use of national professional project personnel (NPPP) (JIU/REP/91/1)

4. The JIU study on technical cooperation and the use of national professional project personnel (NPPP) was undertaken at the request of UNIDO; it deals with the use of NPPP throughout the United Nations system. The report examines the strategy and policy of using NPPP in implementing technical cooperation, as well as the related financial, administrative and operational problems. The report provides data, by country, on the numbers of national and international experts used, revealing that in 1988 more than half the NPPP were concentrated in six countries, five in Latin America and one in Asia.

5. While the draft discussed with JIU contained data on the use of NPPP by UNIDO, these data were not included in the final version of the report. UNIDO, in its annual reports, provides important data on the use of NPPP both in absolute figures and in percentage of total experts recruited. Data for 1987 to 1990 are as follows:

Year	NPPP experts recruited	Percentage of all recruited experts
1987	263	13.8
1988	231	12.0
1989	288	13.5
1990	416	16.7

6. Part two of the JIU report implies that the decision to use national experts is only made at some point during project execution. However, the experience of UNIDO shows that in reality that decision is made at the design stage when various project inputs and modalities for implementation are agreed upon by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Government and the executing agency. The use of national experts always follows a request by and agreement with the Government. Moreover, almost all NPPP are appointed by UNIDO upon explicit nomination of candidates by Governments in agreement with resident representatives.

7. The JIU report analyses the reasons for using NPPP and points to certain attendant difficulties, not the least of which relate to the disparity in salary levels applied to nationals employed on the same projects. The remuneration for national experts is again almost exclusively a matter of consultations between UNIDO and the UNDP offices, who make every effort to ensure that salaries are in line with good prevailing local conditions for professional staff. The report, in particular paragraphs 66 to 71, raises some interesting aspects with regard to the employment of NPPP, such as the difference in their emoluments when compared with national civil servants and the consideration of NPPP as second-class experts when compared to their international counterparts. These points have, in fact, been under discussion in such common system bodies as the Consultative Committee on Administrative Questions (CCAQ) and efforts are being made to avoid discrimination against national experts. UNIDO, in conjunction with UNDP and other organizations, took a step forward by contracting a Van Breda insurance scheme covering health care, death and disability for NPPP. Generally speaking, the salaries of national experts are rising rapidly, and the report claims that the costs involved in utilizing NPPP in fact divert convertible indicative planning figure resources. What perhaps has been left unsaid is that in many cases NPPP receive payments in local currency. One solution that has been adopted in a number of cases where resident representatives have taken the initiative in consultation with Governments is to establish simple salary scales for the employment of NPPP as well as of "national consultants", who are normally hired for shorter periods than national experts, but with the same status.

8. As far as the legal status of NPPP is concerned, national experts are not considered "officials" under the 1946 Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations and, as such, are not staff members. NPPP are therefore comparable to persons recruited on special service agreements. In brief, NPPP do not have functional immunity for all acts performed in their official capacity. UNIDO is participating in the CCAQ discussions on possibilities for establishing NPPP as a separate new category of staff. However, UNIDO shares the concern expressed in paragraph 69 of the JIU report that this might exacerbate the problem of brain drain from government institutions. The Inspectors claim that, according to recent surveys, more than 60 per cent of NPPP take advantage of the fact that their appointment to a project gives them a better knowledge of the United Nations system to apply for IPPP vacancies abroad, and 20 per cent of them leave the country. It is, however, the developing countries themselves who encourage international organizations to recruit an increasing number of their nationals as international experts, a situation which invariably involves temporary relocation from their countries. UNIDO has appointed a number of former NPPP as international experts and hopes to be able to recruit more for international assignments.

9. Of the four recommendations in the report (paras. 32 and 90), two are related to statistics. The first recommendation is addressed to the organizations of the United Nations system, and requests them to collect relevant statistics on the use of NPPP that could then be incorporated within the internal collection and dissemination system being set up by UNDP. UNIDO already complies with this recommendation. The second recommendation is directed to the Director-General for Development and International Economic

Co-operation, who is urged to analyse the assembled statistical data. The Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation is also called upon to make recommendations to the Economic and Social Council and to the General Assembly aimed at a more rational and efficient NPPP policy.

10. The other two recommendations of the report bear major policy implications for technical cooperation in terms of the use of NPPP. These recommendations are important enough to be reproduced verbatim. They read:

> Recommendation No. 3: "Within the framework of a continuously updated analysis adapted to each recipient country and in the light of the progress made in the development of that country, as well as of the progressive movement of its economy from sectors that have become standard or traditional towards increasingly complex and sophisticated sectors, the United Nations system should:
>
> "(a) devote technical co-operation funds to paying for the transfer of expertise by the use of international experts whenever such expertise is lacking in the country, when it is essential that it should be acquired, and when it corresponds to a priority need that cannot be satisfied by resorting to national expertise;
>
> "(b) mobilize more local resources in expertise and in qualified personnel, making increasing use of Government execution and subcontracting to national institutions. While these procedures mobilize national expertise, they should not involve any change in the status of national experts or the awarding of any salary supplements or benefits in kind and should not give rise to conflicts like those that sometimes spring up between NPPP and other national officials; and
>
> "(c) make more frequent and more extensive use of the expert capacity of developing countries by mobilizing many more experts from those countries as international experts employed in their own region and in the framework of technical co-operation among developing countries (TCDC), rather than using every expert in his own country as an NPPP."
>
> Recommendation No. 4: "The sovereignty of the host country and its authority over technical co-operation projects would be more effectively exercised were the United Nations system to make more efficient the use of [National Directors] ND by, on the one hand, working out country programmes based on a better definition of development objectives, and by ensuring a better match between these objectives and technical co-operation projects to ensure that they are more closely integrated with the trends pursued by the Government."

11. UNIDO fully subscribes to these recommendations and implements them subject to the policies established by Governments. As mentioned above (para. 7), in determining salaries for NPPP, the guidelines and/or salary tables established by UNDP at the country level are applied. UNIDO makes extensive use of National Directors and is currently engaged in formulating improved country programming methodologies in order to ensure better integration between the inputs of the United Nations system and national development objectives.

B. Assessment of the environmental focus of projects financed by UNDP and other United Nations agencies (JIU/REP/91/2)

12. This Joint Inspection Unit study was undertaken with a view to ascertaining to what extent the projects financed by UNDP and other United Nations system organizations take into account environmental factors. At the system level, the JIU is of the opinion that the integration of environment into the development process should be incorporated in the programmes and budgets and medium-term plans of agencies and organizations of the United Nations system and should become a permanent feature on their agendas. In addition, the Inspectors feel also that a more multidisciplinary coordinated approach should be adopted in preparing and implementing programmes by various United Nations entities involved in the management of environment. The Inspectors recommend that developed Member States should increase their financial and technical assistance to developing nations with a view to adopting, in collaboration with the United Nations system, strategies that promote environmentally-sound and economically-viable projects (Executive Summary, JIU/REP/91/2).

13. In paragraphs 106 to 110, the report duly reflects the information provided by UNIDO on its programmes and activities related to environmental questions, including initiatives taken to strengthen the Organization's ability and capacity to respond to the increasing needs and demands of its constituency.

14. In general, UNIDO agrees with the four recommendations contained in the report (ibid., para. 122), and has already been acting on its own initiative to bring about greater environmental focus in its projects.

III. ACTION REQUIRED OF THE BOARD

15. The Board may wish to take note of the JIU reports discussed above and the comments made by UNIDO thereon.

Notes

1/ General Assembly resolution 31/192, annex.

2/ Official Records of the General Assembly, forty-fifth session, Supplement No. 34 (A/45/34).

3/ A/46/89.

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JOINT UNIDO/UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE SERVICE

Report by the Director-General

Summary

Relates historical background on conference service arrangements at Vienna-based organizations, reports on recent proposals by the Secretary-General of the United Nations for a unified service and gives UNIDO response to those proposals.

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I. BACKGROUND

1. The UNIDO conference service was established in 1967 and, in the late 1970s, assumed the responsibility for United Nations bodies transferred by then to Vienna from Geneva and New York. Since 1986 there have been two joint services: Languages and Documentation Division administered by UNIDO and Meetings Planning and Interpretation Service administered by the United Nations Office at Vienna (UNOV), each making selected components of conference servicing available to both organizations. Since its inception, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has operated a conference service of its own. The question of organizing conference servicing facilities at the Vienna International Centre into a single operation was initiated in 1984 by the General Assembly in its resolution 39/68/A.

2. In 1985, the Director-General of UNIDO expressed strong reservations on establishing, at that time, a unified conference service under the United Nations (A/C.5/40/7, para. 5). During consultations among senior officials of the United Nations, UNIDO and IAEA undertaken in October 1985, no agreement was reached concerning the need to proceed at once with the establishment of a unified conference service under United Nations administration. The report of the Advisory Committee for Conference Services at Vienna, which finalized the 1986-1987 deliberations on the subject, registered the position of UNIDO representatives that "there is no convincing reason to change the present set-up of the joint services between the United Nations and UNIDO".

II. RECENT PROPOSALS

3. UNIDO is willing to consider all suggestions for a more efficient and cost-effective organization of conference servicing in the Vienna International Centre provided that they correspond to the interests of the organizations concerned. In keeping with this approach UNIDO has been analysing the latest proposal of the United Nations Secretary-General as presented in documents A/C.5/45/30 and A/C.5/45/32 and, most recently, in document A/CN.1/R.1136/Rev.1 entitled Unified Conference Services for the United Nations Organizations at the Vienna International Centre. At the request of the United Nations Secretariat in New York, the latter was circulated at the seventh session of the Programme and Budget Committee of UNIDO.

4. The position of UNIDO on the subject was highlighted in documents A/C.5/45/62 and A/C.5/45/63 as well as in the report of the Advisory Committee on Conference Services at Vienna of 22 February 1991 and it was made known to the Member States at a briefing organized by UNIDO and IAEA on 14 March 1991 and to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) at its 1991 spring session, in Vienna.

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5. The current United Nations proposal differs drastically from the concept of a common conference service at Vienna, that is, of a service which would have taken care of the three organizations operating at the Vienna International Centre. Apart from the proposed rearrangement involving interpretation services, the United Nations proposal is limited to only two of the three organizations, namely UNOV and UNIDO.

6. There are two elements in the proposal: the unification of existing joint conference service components administered by UNIDO and UNOV and the vesting of authority in UNOV for managing the unified service, which would involve the transfer of the Languages and Documentation Division to the administration of UNOV.

III. UNIDO RESPONSE

7. The proposed unification of the two joint service components - which are at present self-sufficient and self-sustained units - would not provide any qualitative changes because there is no overlapping of functions in the two units, and therefore no posts could be dropped. The work process in either unit would not be improved as a result of the unification. It would not enhance the existing coordination in matters related to the planning of meetings, which is the only area of common interest to both units. Thus, the unification would not improve efficiency nor would it generate any savings.

8. The proposal to transfer the responsibility for the Languages and Documentation Division to the United Nations Office at Vienna has substantial financial implications. The additional personnel and financial responsibility for the staff to be taken over from UNIDO would be considerable. At present, the administrative structure of UNOV employs about 400 staff members who have stable contractual status and require only routine personnel and finance processing. The Languages and Documentation Division, managed by UNIDO, numbers 170 established posts and recruits annually about 100 work/years of temporary assistance which requires the processing of up to 700 contracts per year. If the Division were placed under the authority of UNOV, administrative support is estimated to require about 15 additional Professional and General Service posts at a cost of up to $1.8 million per biennium. These additional support costs would not lead to an increase in effectiveness and efficiency. Moreover, since the present set-up functions to the satisfaction of both organizations, such an expense is totally unwarranted. Cost-sharing such an increase in expenditure would run counter to the zero-growth budget policy pursued by UNIDO and hence is not acceptable.

9. Paragraph 24 of the report of the Secretary-General A/CN.1/R.1136/Rev.1, suggests that transferring the administering authority to the United Nations could offer the following benefits to a unified conference service: integration of Vienna into a global network of conference services; participation in the United Nations telecommunications system; substantive and technical support; access to world-wide competitive examinations and training for linguistic staff; and opportunities for career development. In the view of UNIDO, these advantages can be realized within the present set-up and can be introduced through the productive inter-agency cooperation that already exists between United Nations and UNIDO. Improvement and broadening of that cooperation should be an important item on the agenda of the joint Advisory Committee on Conference Services at Vienna.

10. On the other hand, some observations made in the report merit close attention. The proposal on rearranging the interpretation component at the Vienna International Centre (VIC) offers a more rational configuration than the present one. It provides for the interpretation services to be reimbursed at the local free-lance interpreter rate, and when United Nations interpreters are not available, the United Nations would recruit free-lance interpreters with all costs to be reimbursed by the requesting organizations. The rates and arrangements suggested are reasonable and the proposed changes would have no adverse effect on the staff. UNIDO believes that the interpretation component should be reshaped without delay along the lines suggested in the report and start servicing the three organizations at the Vienna International Centre with effect from 1 January 1992.

11. UNIDO would support the proposal to establish 11 Professional and 11 General Service posts by converting a corresponding amount of temporary assistance funds. This idea is based on the recommendations made by the external auditors in 1989. The suggested conversion would not increase expenditure but would lead to savings, since the cost of employing regular staff is considerably lower than free-lance rates. Moreover, the creation of these 22 posts, along with the establishment of a number of the General Service posts as suggested in the report of the Secretary-General (para. 31), would also regularize the contractual status of those staff members who have remained for years on short-term contracts without any prospect of stable employment within the United Nations system. However, it should be stressed that UNIDO does not agree to make the suggested conversions subject to the change of administering authority. This useful measure can and should be administered within the present set-up and at the earliest convenience.

12. UNIDO regards with deep concern the provision in paragraph 43 of document A/CN.1/R.1136/Rev.1 calling for the establishment of a separate United Nations conference service at the Vienna International Centre if no agreement is reached on the establishment of a unified service. Splitting the existing joint services would compromise the goal set by the Joint Inspection Unit in 1984 to explore the prospects of establishing a single conference service for the three organizations operating at the Vienna International Centre. It would run counter to the recommendations reached in 1987 by the Advisory Committee on Conference Services at Vienna, namely that the existing joint services arrangement between the United Nations and UNIDO should be continued and any split should be avoided. The establishment of two separate services would eliminate the present advantage of flexibility in adjusting the staffing level according to the fluctuating workload for the two organizations. Administrative and support functions of the two separate services would be massively duplicated. Preliminary estimates show that the total consumption of worktime might increase by nearly 15 per cent which, cost-wise, would constitute about $4.0 to $4.5 million per biennium.

13. An analysis of document A/CN.1/R.1136/Rev.1 helps to identify a number of important areas that still require clarification and thorough systematic consultations between the United Nations and UNIDO.

IV. CONCLUSIONS

14. The foregoing considerations bring UNIDO to the conclusion that, with the exception of the interpretation component, conference servicing arrangements between the United Nations Office at Vienna and UNIDO should be continued without change; that the Secretary-General's proposal that UNOV assume responsibility for the interpretation service at the Vienna International Centre on the terms suggested in paragraphs 32 to 40 of the document A/CN.1/R.1136/Rev.1 should be implemented as of 1 January 1992; and that other points of the report related to the conference servicing at the Vienna International Centre should be made the subject of inter-agency consultations within the framework of the joint Advisory Committee on Conference Services at Vienna.

V. ACTION REQUIRED OF THE BOARD

15. The Industrial Development Board may wish:

(a) To take note of the present report of the Director-General and the report of the United Nations Secretary-General on Unified Conference Services for the United Nations Organizations at the Vienna International Centre (A/CN.1/R.1136/Rev.1);

(b) To agree that, with the exception of the interpretation component, the conference servicing arrangements between UNIDO and United Nations at Vienna should continue as at present;

(c) To recommend that the proposal providing for the United Nations to assume responsibility for the interpretation services for the three organizations at the Vienna International Centre should be implemented as of 1 January 1992;

(d) To further recommend to continue, on a regular basis, the systematic analysis of the conference servicing requirements and facilities of the Vienna-based organizations within the framework of the joint Advisory Committee on Conference Services;

(e) To request the Director-General of UNIDO to transmit to the United Nations Secretary-General and to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions the views and recommendations of the Board with regard to the proposals contained in the report A/CN.1/R.1136/Rev.1.

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MATTERS RELATING TO INTERGOVERNMENTAL, NON-GOVERNMENTAL GOVERNMENTAL AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Information on intergovernmental organizations not in the United Nations system

Note by the Director-General

Summary

Provides information on three intergovernmental organizations: Financial Fund for Development of the Plate River Basin (FONPLATA), International Pepper Community (IPC) and Islamic Foundation for Science, Technology and Development (IFSTAD) that have expressed the wish to enter into appropriate relationship agreements with UNIDO.

1. Article 19.1 (a) of the Constitution stipulates that the Director-General may, with the approval of the Board and subject to guidelines established by the Conference, "enter into agreements establishing appropriate relationship with ... intergovernmental and governmental organizations". The Guidelines (decision GC.1/Dec.41, annex, p ras. 8 and 9) put forward that the Director-General shall circulate among the members of the Board information on intergovernmental and governmental organizations wishing to enter into agreements with UNIDO; upon approval of the Board, the Director-General shall conclude appropriate relationship agreements with the organizations concerned.

2. Information is provided in the annex to the present document on three intergovernmental organizations that have expressed the wish to enter into appropriate relationship agreements with UNIDO.

ACTION REQUIRED OF THE BOARD

3. The Board may wish to authorize the Director-General, in accordance with General Conference decision GC.1/Dec.41, annex, paragraph 9, to conclude appropriate relationship agreements with the Financial Fund for Development of the Plate River Basin (FONPLATA), the International Pepper Community (IPC) and the Islamic Foundation for Science, Technology and Development (IFSTAD) based on the information contained in the annex to the present document.

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Annex

FINANCIAL FUND FOR DEVELOPMENT OF THE PLATE RIVER BASIN (FONPLATA)

Historical background

Established in June 1974 under the provisions of the Plate River Basin Treaty.

Purpose

To promote the harmonic development and the physical integration of the Plate River Basin, through the financing of studies, projects, programmes.

Structure

Board of Governors
Executive Board of Directors
Executive Secretariat

Membership

Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay

Activities

- To grant loans, guarantees and endorsements
- To procure and obtain internal and external loans
- To procure and obtain resources upon request of one or more of its Member Countries
- To support financially the effectiveness of pre-investment studies
- To give financial support to business transactions for contracting assistance and technical advisories
- To perform other functions, that improve the performance of its objectives.

Relations with other intergovernmental and governmental organizations

Institute for Latin American Integration, Inter-American Development Bank, International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Organization for American States and United Nations Development Programme.

Relations with international non-governmental organizations

Latin American Association of Development Financing Institutions.

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Head of Organization

Mr. Efraín Darío Centurión
Ambassador
President

INTERNATIONAL PEPPER COMMUNITY (IPC)

Historical background

Established in 1972 under the auspices of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).

Purpose

Promotes, coordinates and harmonizes all activities relating to the pepper community by stimulating research on technical and economic aspects of production; facilitating the exchange of information on programmes, policies and any other aspects relating to production; developing programmes for increasing consumption in traditional and new markets and undertaking such other activities and functions as may be deemed desirable in the interests of the world pepper economy.

Structure

Chairperson
Executive Director
Secretariat

Membership

Brazil, India, Indonesia, Malaysia

Activities

Collects, compiles and disseminates market information and data to all interested parties both within and outside of its member countries.

Arranges the meetings of its member countries to which it also invites representatives of Governments of non-member countries, United Nations bodies, specialized agencies and other organizations to attend in a consultative capacity or as observers. In carrying out its functions in any particular field, IPC consults, cooperates and seeks assistance from United Nations bodies or specialized agencies having particular responsibility in that field.

Relations with other intergovernmental and governmental organizations

Association of Brazilian Pepper Exporters, Association of Indonesian Pepper Exporters, Pepper Marketing Board (Malaysia), Spices Board (India), ESCAP, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, International Atomic Energy Agency, International Standards Organization, International Trade Centre UNCTAD/GATT, UNDP and United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

Relations with international non-governmental organizations

National Resources Institute (United Kingdom), Free University (Netherlands), NATEC Institute

(Germany) and International General Produce Association (United Kingdom).

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Head of Organization

Mr. Mohamed Ismail
Executive Director

ISLAMIC FOUNDATION FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND DEVELOPMENT (IFSTAD)

Historical background

Established as a subsidiary organ of the Organization of the Islamic Conference in accordance with the Charter of Islamic Foundation for Science, Technology and Development, approved by the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers in August 1982.

Purpose

- To promote and encourage scientific and technological research within an Islamic framework
- To promote cooperation and coordination in the fields of science and technology within the Islamic world in order to strengthen the bonds of Islamic solidarity
- To ensure that all member countries make the greatest possible use of science and technology in the formulation and implementation of their socio-economic plans
- To provide advice and carry out scientific studies.

Structure

Scientific Council
Executive Committee
Director General

Membership

Algeria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Cameroon, Chad, Comoros, Djibouti, Gabon, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, Yemen.

Activities

The Five-Year Plan of Action (1989-1994) contains the following five major programmes:

- Science and technology policy formulation and implementation
- Science and technology information development
- Manpower development
- Cooperation in and coordination of science and technology activities with national, regional and international organizations/institutions
- Transfer of technology.

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